



## News Release

Media Contacts: Joe DiLaura, 317/232-3396

### **State urges employers to use new online system for large scale layoffs**

INDIANAPOLIS (November 7, 2007) -- The Department of Workforce Development has launched a new initiative for employers that is designed to speed up the processing and payment of unemployment benefits for individuals laid off as part of a large scale separation or a temporary short-term layoff or shut down.

This web-based initiative allows participating employers to pre-enter wage and income information on all employees affected by temporary shut downs. When a listed employee enters his or her social security number to file a claim, all of the data items associated with the layoff, such as last day worked, wage information and employer data will automatically be filled in for the employee's claim. The employee will only need to fill in a small amount of data associated with the claim.

"This new tool, which is part of our new Uplink Unemployment Insurance System, will significantly reduce the time it takes to process these claims," said Teresa Voors, commissioner of the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. "Not only will it be easier for companies to enter data on their employees, it will also speed up the processing and payment of claims. We encourage all employers who go through these seasonal shut downs or other large scale employer separations to utilize this new tool," Voors said.

Voors noted that employers who utilize the new system will avoid receiving literally hundreds of individual requests for earnings verification. The on-line application will be easier for employers as they will be able to access employee information from their wage reports.

The process will also be simpler for employees in that much of the required information necessary to determine eligibility for unemployment insurance will already have been entered into the state's system prior to the employee filing.

Employers seeking more information about how to utilize the new service should go to [www.in.gov/dwd](http://www.in.gov/dwd) and click on the Employer Self Service link in the online services box at the upper right.

The initiative is designed to facilitate the overall claims process for employers and employees during scheduled shutdowns, which typically occur at the end of each year and in the middle of summer. Many manufacturing facilities shut down for one or two weeks, during which time their employees may be eligible to receive unemployment

benefits. In Indiana, these shutdowns often occur around the Christmas and July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday periods.

The new initiative is part of the state's unemployment insurance modernization project, which is moving from a paper-driven system to an online automated program, providing improved access and ease of use for claimants and employers.

The Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies to create new jobs and improve worker skills. The agency offers a variety of training and educational grants, oversees Indiana's 26 WorkOne employment centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates a statewide job placement service. For more information visit the agency website at [www.workforce.IN.gov](http://www.workforce.IN.gov).